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EXAMINER

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Paper No. 26

Application Number: 09/177,700
Filing Date: October 23, 1998
Appellant(s): GARDELL ET AL.

James Weixel
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 12/05/2002.

(1) *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Invention

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Issues

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) Grouping of Claims

Appellant's brief includes a statement that claims 1-19 do not stand or fall together and provides reasons as set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) and (c)(8).

(8) Claims Appealed

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9) Prior Art of Record

6,006,253	KUMAR et al.	12-1999
6,298,045	PANG et al.	10-2001
5,930,700	PEPPER et al.	07-1999

(10) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kumar et al.** (US Pat. No. 6,006,253) in view of **Pang et al.** (US Pat. No. 6,298,045 B1).

In claims 1 and 3, a communication system for interfacing with a switched circuit network and a terminal of a computer network comprising:

A gateway in communication with the switched circuit network, the gateway being operative to translate switched circuit network-compatible signals into computer network-compatible signals; and

a signal routing agent in communication with the gateway and with one or more terminals, the signal routing agent receives plural incoming calls from the gateway addressed to a selected one of the terminals and programmed to simultaneously transmit plural line appearance signals that identify origins of the incoming calls to the selected terminal.

Kumar et al. discloses, in Fig.1, a Gateway 122 translates incoming calls received from PSTN 170 into H.323 terminals compatible signals (A Gateway translating Switched circuit

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network-compatible signals into computer-network compatible signals). See col.3, lines 30-38.

A Multipoint controller unit (MCU)126 (Signal routing agent) receives translated incoming signals from Gateway 122 (Signal routing agent receives translated incoming calls from gateway) and routes the translated incoming signals to H.323 terminals 112, H.332 terminal 114 (incoming calls addressed to a terminal). See col. 3, lines 40-45.

***Kumar et al.** does not disclose a signal routing agent programmed to simultaneously transmit plural line appearance signals that identify origins of the incoming calls to the selected terminal.*

***Pang et al.** discloses, in Fig.2, that plural incoming calls 52 from telephones 12 are received at a Communication System 50 (a Signal Routing Agent). See col.13, lines 25-30. The communication system 50 (Signal routing agent) routes the incoming calls under plural line displays (plural line appearance) to a window 130 (See Fig.8A) of a H.323 terminal 24 represented as office-type attendant terminal (Routing plural line appearance signals to a selected terminal). See col.13, lines 46-59 & col.28, lines 41-50. The window 130 (see Figure 8A) shows line displays132 (plural line appearance) with corresponding caller IDs 150 (origins of incoming calls) obtained by the communication system 50 (plural line appearance signals identify the origins of the incoming calls). See col.16, lines 22-45.*

*Since the receiving terminals of **Kumar et al.** are H.323 terminals used in Packet switch network, point-to- point or multipoint conferences, the conference calls allow plural line appearance inputs to be displayed back on the number of conferees in the conference call. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to modify the **Kumar et al.** 's system by having the communication system 50 to route multiple line appearances*

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identifying the origins of incoming calls to a selected one or more H.323 terminals for conference as well as non-conference calls. The benefit is that this feature could be applied to normal calls as well and allows the use of packet data network to have the same features as in PSTN network. The modification of Kumar et al. 's system provides multimedia data streams routing including voice, data, video to any selected video type terminal user in packet switched network.

In claim 2, the terminal includes a user interface configured to simultaneously display multiple line appearance messages that identify the origins of the incoming calls.

Kumar et al. does not disclose the terminal includes a user interface configured to simultaneously display multiple line appearance messages that identify the origins of the incoming calls. Pang et al. discloses, in Fig.8A, H.323 terminal 24 comprising a window 130 (a terminal includes a user interface) configured to simultaneously receive incoming calls under plural line spaces 132. Each line space has a corresponding caller ID 150 (display multiple line appearance identifying the origins of incoming calls). See col.16, lines 22-40 & Figure 13C, col. 28, lines 42-50. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to display plural lines identifying the origins of incoming calls in the H.323 terminal of Kumar et al. by using the window 130 of Pang et al. The motivation would be to allow the users to have feature such as call waiting and to handle multiple calls .

In claim 6, the signal routing agent comprises a call routed gatekeeper.

Kumar et al. discloses, in Fig.1, a Multipoint control unit 126 (a signal routing agent) is located at a gatekeeper 124 (signal routing agent comprises a call routed gatekeeper). See col.3, lines 45-49.

In claim 7, the signal routing agent comprises a call control service entity.

Kumar et al. discloses, in Fig.1, a Multipoint control unit 126 (a signal routing agent) includes multipoint controller and multipoint processors (a call control service entity) which provide control functions for conferences (the signal routing agent comprises a call control service entity). See col.3, lines 47-52.

In claim 8, the gateway and signal routing agent are constructed to operate under an H.323 standard.

Kumar et al. discloses, in Fig.1, Gateway 122 and a Multipoint control unit 126 (a signal routing agent) communicate under H.323 standard (the gateway and signal routing agent are constructed to operate under an H.323 standard). See col.3, lines 31-38.

In claim 3, the signal routing agent is in communication with the respective terminals, and is responsive to receipt of an incoming call to transmit a corresponding line appearance signal that identifies an origin of the incoming call to each of the respective terminals.

The limitation of this claim has been addressed in claim 1.

In claim 9, a system comprising:

a signal routing agent;

a gateway adapted to receive the incoming call, the gateway being operative to translate the incoming call into computer network-compatible signals;

at least one gatekeeper in communication with the gateway and responsive to receipt of the incoming call to control the gateway to transmit the computer network-compatible signals to the signal routing agent; and

the signal routing agent being responsive to receipt of the computer-network compatible signals to identify corresponding ones of the terminals assigned to receive the computer network-compatible signals and to transmit line appearance messages that identify an origin of the incoming call to each of the terminals.

Kumar et al. discloses, in Fig.1, a Multipoint controller unit 126 (a signal routing agent), Gateway 122 receives incoming calls from PSTN (a Gateway receiving incoming calls). The gateway 122 translates the incoming calls into H.323 standard compatible signals (Gateway translates the incoming call from PSTN into computer network-compatible signals). See col.3, lines 30-52. A Gatekeeper 124 in a LAN 110 (at least a gatekeeper) controls the gateway 122 (at least one gatekeeper in communication with the gateway) to provide access to multipoint controller unit 126 (controlling the gateway to provide computer network compatible signals to signal routing agent). See col.3, lines 40-50.

Kumar et al. does not disclose the signal routing agent being responsive to receipt of the computer-network compatible signals to identify corresponding ones of the terminals assigned to receive the computer network-compatible signals and to transmit line appearance messages that identify an origin of the incoming call to each of the terminals.

Pang et al. discloses, in Fig.2, that plural incoming calls 52 from telephones 12 are received at a Communication System 50 (a Signal Routing Agent). See col.13, lines 25-30. The communication system 50 (Signal routing agent) routes the incoming calls under plural line displays (plural line appearance) to a window 130 (See Fig.8A) of a H.323 terminal 24 represented as office-type attendant terminal (Routing plural line appearance signals to a selected terminal). See col.13, lines 46-59 & col.28, lines 41-50. The window 130 (see Figure 8A) shows line displays 132 (plural line appearance) with corresponding caller IDs 150 (origins of incoming calls) obtained by the communication system 50 (plural line appearance signals identify the origins of the incoming calls). See col.16, lines 22-45.

*Since both the receiving terminals of **Pang et al.** and **Kumar et al.** are H.323 terminals used in Packet Based Network, H.323 protocol provides multi-calls to selected terminal (multipoint-to point) connection in multimedia conferences. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to modify the **Kumar et al.** 's system by adding to it the characteristics of communication system 50 in order to route multiple line appearance displays identifying the origins of incoming calls to a selected one or more terminals. The modification of **Kumar et al.** 's system provides users the capabilities to handle multiple calls such as call waiting, three-way conference call.*

In claim 12, the signal routing agent comprises a call control service entity.

***Kumar et al.** discloses, in Fig.1, a Multipoint control unit 126 (a signal routing agent) includes multipoint controller and multipoint processors (a call control service entity) which provide control functions for conferences (the signal routing agent comprises a call control service entity). See col.3, lines 47-52.*

In claim 13, the signal routing agent comprises a call routed gatekeeper.

***Kumar et al.** discloses, in Fig.1, a Multipoint control unit 126 (a signal routing agent) is located at a gatekeeper 124 (signal routing agent comprises a call routed gatekeeper). See col.3, lines 45-49.*

In claim 14, the call control service entity comprises a multi-point control unit and a call manager.

***Kumar et al.** discloses, in Fig.1, a Multipoint control unit 126(call control service entity) includes a multipoint controller (a multipoint control unit) and multipoint processors (call manager). See col.3, lines 48-52.*

In claim 11, the at least one gatekeeper is in communication with the gateway and a second Gatekeeper is in communication with the at least one gatekeeper, the signal routing agent and the terminals.

Kumar et al. discloses, in Fig.1, a gatekeeper 124 (at least one gatekeeper) is in communication with gateway 122 in LAN 110 (at least one gatekeeper is in communication with the gateway). A gatekeeper in a LAN 140 (a second gatekeeper) communicates with the gatekeeper 124 of LAN 110 (communicate with the at least one gatekeeper), the multipoint controller unit (MCU) 126; and terminals 172. See col.3, lines 40-45.

Kumar et al. does not disclose a second Gatekeeper that connects to the first Gatekeeper. However, it is well known in the art to add a second Gatekeeper that connects to the first Gatekeeper, signal routing agent. Therefore, it would have been obvious in the art at the time the invention was made to add a second Gatekeeper into network 110 as disclosed by **Kumar et al.** to locate a gatekeeper that services a particular dialed number.

In claim 4, a configuration database storing terminal information; and wherein:

the signal routing agent is responsive to receipt of an incoming call addressed to one of the terminals to access the configuration database, identify one or more terminals to receive line appearances that identify an origin of the incoming call, and transmit a line appearance message to the identified one or more terminals.

The limitations of this claim have been addressed in claims 1 and 15.

In claim 5, a configuration database comprises an association table.

The limitations of this claim have been addressed in claims 1 and 15.

In claim 10, a configuration database storing data associating numbers of incoming calls to corresponding terminals; and wherein:

The signal routing agent is programmed to access the configuration database to identify the terminals.

The limitations of this claim have been addressed in claims 1 and 15.

Claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kumar et al.** (US Pat. No. 6,006,253) in view of **Pang et al.** (US Pat. No. 6,298,045 B1), and further in view of **Pepper et al.** (US Pat. No. 5,930,700).

In claim 15, 17 and 19, a method comprising the steps of:
receiving plural incoming calls directed to a particular address;
accessing a configuration database to identify at least one end-point associated with the address;
transmitting plural line appearance signals that identify origins of the incoming calls to each of the end-points.

***Kumar et al.** discloses most of the claim limitations. But **Kumar et al.** does not disclose accessing a data base to identify the at least one end-point associated with address.*

***Pepper et al.** discloses, in Fig.3, incoming calls from telephone 302 are interfaced by Interface TNI (gateway) 304 which answers the call and alerts a service control 306 that a call has been received for a given line. The controller 306 uses phone book data base 308 represented in Fig.8 (data base comprises an association table) to determine the identity of the caller and subscriber to which the call is directed (database storing terminal information). See col.6, lines 12-30. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to use the database 308 of **Pepper et al.** into the **Kumar et al.** 's system to access the address of stored terminal in the database and to determine if the callers and the subscribers are authorized to initiate and receive the calls . The motivation is to provide on-screen calls between users.*

In claim 16, step of displaying comprising a scrollable list of plural line appearances.

***Kumar et al.** does not disclose a scrollable list of plural line appearances. **Pang et al.** discloses, in Fig.9A, a window 200 that shows a list of subscribers and extension 202(scrollable list of line appearances). Terminal user may transfer the call to a selected particular subscriber by selecting the subscriber and clicking a mouse or a pointer on a transfer icon 204. See col.18,*

*lines 59-67. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to implement the H.323 terminal of **Kumar et al.** with the window 200 of **Pang et al.** in order to be able to handle incoming calls easily.*

In claim 18, the line appearance signals are transmitted simultaneously.

The limitation of this claim has been addressed in claim 1.

(11) Response to Argument

A. Introduction:

Prior to responding to the arguments, Examiner would like to describe the summary of the invention which is described in Figure 1.

A plural of incoming calls to a selected Multi-line Appearance terminal end-point 20 are received from a Public Switch Telephone Network 22 (PSTN) at a Gateway 12. The Gateway 12 translates the incoming calls into computer-network compatible signals and transmits the translated signals to a Gatekeeper 14 which performs an access control function in order to authorize the translated incoming calls. Gatekeeper 14 directs the Gateway 12 to transmit the translated signals to a Signal Routing Agent 16. The Signal routing agent 16 searches database 18 for address of the selected terminal endpoint 20 and is programmed to simultaneously transmit plural line appearance signals that identify the origins of the incoming calls to the select multi-line appearance terminal endpoint 20.

B. Description of the Cited References:

Prior to responding to the arguments, Examiner would like to describe the cited references Kumar et al. in view of Pang et al.

Kumar et al. discloses, in Fig.1, a Gateway 122 translates incoming calls received from PSTN 170 into H.323 terminals compatible signals (A Gateway translating Switched circuit network-compatible signals into computer-network compatible signals). See col.3, lines 30-38. A Multipoint controller unit (MCU)126 (Signal routing agent) receives translated incoming signals from Gateway 122 (Signal routing agent receives translated incoming calls from gateway) and routes the translated incoming signals to H.323 terminals 112 (routing the translated incoming calls to a terminal). See col. 3, lines 40-45.

Kumar et al. does not disclose a signal routing agent programmed to simultaneously transmit plural line appearance signals that identify origins of the incoming calls to the selected terminal.

Pang et al. discloses, in Fig.2, that plural incoming calls 52 from telephones 12 are received at a Communication System 50 (a Signal Routing Agent). See col.13, lines 25-30. The communication system 50 (Signal routing agent) routes the incoming calls under plural line displays (plural line appearance) to a user interface window 130 (See Fig.8A) of one of H.323 terminal 24 (Routing plural line appearance signals to a selected terminal). See col.13, lines 46-59 & col.28, lines 41-50. The user interface window 130 (see Figure 8A) shows line displays132 (plural line appearance) with corresponding caller IDs 150 (origins of incoming calls) obtained by the communication system 50 (plural line appearance signals identify the origins of the incoming calls). See col.16, lines 22-45.

C. Response to the Arguments:

Applicant argues that neither Kumar et al. nor Pang et al. discloses a signal routing agent that receives plural incoming calls addressed to a selected one of the terminals; and simultaneously transmits plural line appearance signals that identify the origins of the incoming calls to the selected terminal.

Kumar et al. discloses, in Fig.1, a Gateway 122 translates incoming calls received from PSTN 170 into H.323 terminals compatible signals (A Gateway translating Switched circuit network-compatible signals into computer-network compatible signals). See col.3, lines 30-38. A Multipoint controller unit (MCU)126 (Signal routing agent) receives translated incoming signals from Gateway 122 (Signal routing agent receives translated incoming calls from gateway) and routes the translated incoming signals to H.323 terminals 112, H.332 terminal 114 (incoming calls addressed to a terminal). See col. 3, lines 40-45.

Kumar et al. does not disclose a signal routing agent programmed to simultaneously transmit plural line appearance signals that identify origins of the incoming calls to the selected terminal.

Pang et al. discloses, in Fig.2, that plural incoming calls 52 from telephones 12 are received at a Communication System 50 (a Signal Routing Agent). See col.13, lines 25-30. The communication system 50 (Signal routing agent) routes the incoming calls under plural line displays (plural line appearance) to a user interface window 130 (See Fig.8A) of one of H.323 terminals 24 (Routing plural line appearance signals to a selected terminal). See col.13, lines 46-59 & col.28, lines 41-50. The window 130 (see Figure 8A) shows line displays 132 (plural line appearance) with corresponding caller IDs 150 (origins of incoming calls) obtained by the

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communication system 50 (plural line appearance signals identify the origins of the incoming calls). See col.16, lines 22-45.

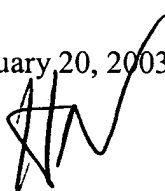
Since the receiving terminals of **Kumar et al.** are H.323 terminals used in Packet switch network, point-to- point or multipoint conferences. The conference calls allow plural line appearance inputs to be displayed back on the number of conferees in the conference call. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to modify the **Kumar et al.** 's system by having the communication system 50 to route multiple line appearance identifying the origins of incoming calls to a selected one or more H.323 terminals since this feature is being modified for conference call. The benefit is that this feature could be applied to normal calls as well and allows the use of packet data network to have the same features as in PSTN network. The modification of **Kumar et al.**'s system provides multimedia data streams routing including voice, data, video to any selected video type terminal user in packet switched network.

12. Conclusion:

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully Submitted

February 20, 2003


Hanh Nguyen

Application/Control Number: 09/177,700
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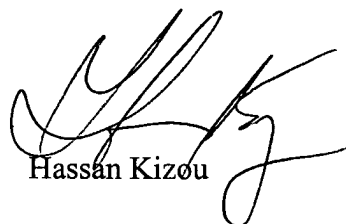
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